(a) whether Government propose to develop the National Highway No. 43 passing from Raipur to Vizianagaram; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b). Development of National Highway is a continuous process. During 8th Plan period a sum of Rs. 790.96 lacs has been sanctioned for various development schemes on National Highway No. 43. The Annual Plan 1996-97, provides for construction of Bridge at Km. 367/4-6 Hardeput Nallah at an estimated cost of Rs. 80.00 lacs, for which proposals are to be received from State Govt. of Orissa.

National Policy on Education

*440. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether aspects of uniformity in education, particularly in rural areas, have been given more emphasis in the latest modifications made in the National Policy on Education;

(b) if so, the main features thereof including the additional facilities being provided in rural areas for spread of education; and

(c) the progress made in implementation of these aspects in different States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c). The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as updated in 1992 envisages a common educational structure and a national curricular framework containing a common core with other flexible components to bring about certain uniformity in education across the country. The Central Government is assisting State Governments through a number of centrally sponsored schemes like Operation Blackboard, Non-Formal Education, Total Literacy Campaigns, District Primary Education Programmes etc. for spread of education in rural areas. Progress of implementation of various schemes are reflected in the Annual Reports of the Ministry which are furnished to the Parliament.

Escalation of Cost of Education in DU

3707. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "In four years the cost of education in DU has trebled" appearing in the Times of India, dated June 22, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(c) the action, the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, the University has not increased the Tuition Fee or the Examination Fee for any of the courses conducted by the colleges. It has, however, increased the University Development Fund by an amount of Rs. 40/- per annum. Besides, the colleges have been revising the annual charges payable by the students towards water, electricity, sports and library etc. These charges vary form college to college depending upon the facilities provided. At present, the average monthly charges, including one-time annual refundable deposits, paid by a student range between Rs. 100/- and Rs. 200/- in various colleges. This average during 1990-91 was Rs. 50/- to Rs. 100/-.

(c) Does not arise as the Fee payable is not considered unduly high and in any case concessions and exemptions are available to deserving candidates from lower income categories.

Shortage of officers in Defence Services

3708. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps government propose to take to make up the shortage of officers in Defence services without lowering/ diluting the standard of selection of commissioned officers;

(b) what measures does the Government propose to adopt to make Indian Armed Forces tempting proposition for the cream of Indian youth;

(c) whether the Government propose to include Ex-service-men's welfare in the concurrent list so that the burden is shared by the Central Government too; and

(d) if so, by when and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d). To make up the shortage of officers in the Defence services, measures such as introduction of University Entry Scheme, enhanced recruitment of Permanent Commissioned Officers and Short Service Commissioned Officers, induction of women as officers, re-employment of retired officers etc. have been taken.

The Vth Central Pay Commission is also looking into the question of emolument structure and conditions of service of